



Bluffton Police Department

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Bluffton Police Department Installs Chaplain Program to Support, Counsel Officers & Families at Crime Scenes

Who takes care of those who take care of everyone else?

At the Bluffton Police Department, five chaplains have volunteered to take care of the officers, their families as well as being on call to comfort victims, families, and friends at crime scenes.

"Officers often walk on the dark side of the mood, seeing the dark underbelly of life," Rev. John Ring, said. "We need to stand besides these officers and support them as they walk through such tragic incidents."

Ring is the lead chaplain for the Bluffton Police Department as well as the minister of family counseling and community outreach for Grace Coastal Church in Okatie.

Ring said besides counseling officers and their families, chaplains also visit sick and injured officers in the hospital, are available to assist in death notifications, serve as a liaison with other clergy in the community and serve in functions such as funerals, religious and civil ceremonies such as swearing in officers.

The other four chaplains are:

- Rev. Manuel Diaz, Iglesia Torre Fuerte
(Services held at Campbell Chapel A.M.E. Church, 25 Boundary Street, Bluffton)
- Rev. Paul Hamilton, Bible Missionary Baptist Church
236 Buck Island Road, Bluffton
- Rev. Bennie Jenkins, First Zion Baptist Church
10 Robertson Street, Bluffton
- Rev. Brian Rose, attends Church of the Cross
110 Calhoun Street, Bluffton



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Ring said each chaplain is a volunteer and is on a weekly rotation. Ring said they are encouraged to visit the Bluffton Police Department three times a week during their service week and “ride-along” with officers during their shift.

“We hope to build relationships with the officers with the hope of gaining permission to be there for the officers and their families as their lives change due to personal or professional events,” Ring said.

In addition to being there for the officers, Chief Joey Reynolds said the chaplains play an essential role during tragic crime scenes.

“As officers, we are often called to comfort victims, however, our main job is to secure, protect and process the crime scene. When chaplains are called in, they comfort victims and their family and friends so we are able to focus on our primary job,” Reynolds said.

Rev. Ring said the chaplain program begun on June 1st; six days later he was called to a suicide scene to comfort the deceased’s friends and family.

“We are here to be a peaceful voice and to provide comfort at a comfortless time,” Ring said. “However, our chaplains are a unique group of guys. As ordained ministers, we have no doubt that this is where we need to be.”

